

Pediatric News

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Dr. Krugman

Immunization Developed Against Serum Hepatitis

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NEW YORK—Immunization against serum hepatitis has been developed at the New York University Medical Center by Dr. Saul Krugman, professor and chairman of the department of pediatrics, and his associates.

The findings were reported by Dr. Krugman at an honors program lecture at the NYU Medical Center here.

He said a serum made from the MS-2 (serum hepatitis) viral strain was inactivated by boiling for 1 minute. Trials on 14 susceptible children demonstrated that its infectivity was destroyed but its antigenicity was intact.

Four of the susceptible children received two inoculations with the inactivated serum and were subsequently exposed to infectious serum. None developed hepatitis, and all developed detectable levels of antibody.

Another 10 susceptible children received one inoculation before exposure. Five of the 10 were protected from hepatitis infection and the other five developed unusually mild infection, suggesting that one inoculation at least modifies the severity of the illness.

The results even with one inoculation were "impressive when compared with a 96% to 100% attack rate when susceptible individuals were exposed to infectious MS-2 serum in the past, Dr. Krugman said.

A method of passive immunization against serum hepatitis also has been developed by Dr. Krugman's group. They used hepatitis B IgG to prevent disease in patients already exposed to serum hepatitis.

The IgG was supplied by Dr. Alfred M. Prince of the New York Blood Center, the investigator who first demonstrated the specific association of the Australia antigen with serum hepatitis. Dr. Prince's work followed what Dr. Krugman called the "crucial breakthrough" in hepatitis research—the dis-

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